

action today is taken as an indication that he has received fresh and substantial additions to his bar'l. There are many who have recently intimated that Mr. Catron is financially hard up and in fact a good many volumes of evidence pro and con were brought forward before Mr. George W. Knaebel in a court proceeding only a few weeks ago. The belief that this alleged stringency has been relaxed and that the Catron coffers have received new recruits is gladdening the hearts of many of the faithful, for there is nothing that adds so much to the enthusiasm of a typical stool-pigeon as the presence of a good healthy supply of boodle on hand or in sight.

All in all, No. 3,240 is likely to cut quite a figure in the campaign of '94.

Said By Newspapers.

JABBED AND STABBED.

Joe Sheridan, the talented editor of the Silver City Enterprise, was most woefully turned down by the republicans of Grant county. He was an avowed candidate for the office of county commissioner and in the convention he was jabbed and stabbed until, at its close not ten men in the county realized that Joe was in it. No wonder he is sore.—New Mexican.

A SMOOTH MACHINE.

The republican bosses dictated the late republican convention from beginning to end. A slip was made on the assessorship nomination but otherwise the machine worked smoothly.—Deming Headlight.

THE POOR MAN'S PARTY.

"I'm a republican," said an Albuquerque man the other day. "Why?" was asked. "Because, I am. I always have been and always will be. I never scratched a republican ticket in my life. It is the party for the poor man. Say, by the way, lend me 10 cents to get some calf's liver for supper."—Nugget.

Caught After Two Years.

Deputy U. S. Marshal Ben Williams, of Las Cruces, left for the south this morning, having in custody a woman named Josefa Bernal, charged with being accessory to the murder of Francisco Romero, which occurred at Las Cruces two years ago. Her husband is in the penitentiary on a two years' sentence from Socorro county for cattle stealing, and the woman recently came here on a visit to him.

Through the aid of local officials Deputy Marshal Williams last night located her at the home of Ramon Martinez and took her into custody. She is a very shrewd woman, aged about 24, and has hitherto given the officers the slip several times. It is alleged that this woman and three male companions, while on a debauch at Las Cruces about two years ago, caused the death of Romero. Benito Morales, now in jail at Las Cruces charged with being a principal in the crime, confessed that she was in the party and held the horse of one of them while they stoned Romero to death.—New Mexican.

REGISTRATION BOARDS.

A Great Expense Which Might be Saved.

Hundreds of Dollars are Thrown Away Every Two Years in Grant County on Registration Boards.

In a few days there will be in session in every precinct in this county a board of registration consisting of three members, whose duty it is to register all of the legally qualified voters in the precincts. Each member of each of these numerous boards is legally entitled to receive the sum of three dollars a day for his services, to be paid out of the county treasury. There are 25 precincts in the county and there will be three registrars in each of the precincts or 75 in all, at \$3 a day.

This makes the comfortable sum of \$225 a day which the county will have to pay for the registration of the voters of the county for the coming election. The law provides that the boards shall meet not less than thirty days before the day for holding the election and they shall be in session at least three days. After the three days' session the boards are required to meet every Saturday until ten days before the election and they must meet on the tenth day before the election to complete their work. In effect the law provides that every board of registration shall be in session at least six days and this would make the expense of the boards in this county at least \$1350.

Half of the time allowed by law would be ample for the registration of all of the voters in the largest precincts in the county, but in the smaller precincts there is not work enough to keep one man busy for half a day. The expense of registration cannot be less than \$54 in any precinct and there are a number of precincts in the county where there are not 50 voters, so that it costs more than a dollar a head to register the voters in these precincts. As the law prescribes the number of days the board must remain in session and the amount of pay the registrars shall receive, nothing can be done except through the legislature. The present arrangement legalizes the robbery of the county.

I am unable to see the necessity for boards of registration and believe that they might be done away with altogether. In some of the states the assessor is required to furnish lists of all the qualified voters from the returns made to his office, and in some of the states it is provided that if the name of any legally qualified voter does not appear on the registration list, he may make affidavit, supported by competent evidence, that

he is a legally qualified voter and "swear in" his vote.

Such a law might be passed by the territorial legislature and hundreds of dollars which are now thrown away might be saved to the county which needs every dollar that comes into the treasury for necessary expenses.

If such a law were to be passed there might be less tendency on the part of some of the residents of the county to dodge taxes. I think that such an arrangement would tend to increase the number of tax returns received by the assessor. It might be well to add to the law a clause providing that no person should be considered a qualified voter unless he had made a return of taxable property within the nine months next proceeding the election at which he desired to vote.

The assessor could afford to make complete lists of the voters of the different precincts in the county for one-tenth of the amount which is paid under the existing law for registering the voters and the remainder can be saved. The work would be in the hands of one man, it is true, and it might be urged that he might not be entirely fair. This would be a valid objection if the law provided, as it does now, that no one could vote without having first been registered. A provision for swearing in votes would entirely remove this objection and render the assessor powerless to advance the interests of any party.

Most of the counties in New Mexico are in as serious financial difficulties as Grant county and a law which would materially cut down the expense of the elections would be of benefit to every county in the territory. Prospective legislators would do well to think over this matter and devise a plan which would save the counties in New Mexico something like \$20,000 every two years.

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